

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



COVID Outbreak Management Plan

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Introduction

The Government has made it a National priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The DfE's published COVID Contingency Framework states that schools should have an "outbreak management plan", outlining how they would operate if any of the measures described in the guidance were recommended for their setting or area.

Measures affecting education and childcare may be necessary in some circumstances, for example:

- To help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting.
- If there is extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce transmission.
- As part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC).

In these cases, the Guidance also states that councils, directors of public health and Public Health England health protection teams can recommend certain measures for individual schools or clusters of settings.

If there is a need to address more widespread issues across an area, "ministers will take decisions on an area-by-area basis".

This plan should be read alongside the latest guidance for education settings operating during COVID (this is not an exhaustive list and these documents change frequently so the reader should check they have the most up to date guidance).

- Schools COVID-19 Operational Guidance
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-coronavirus-covid-19-operational-guidance>
- Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 outbreak
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>
- Actions for schools during the COVID-19 outbreak
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>
- Protective measures for holiday and after-school clubs, and other out-of-school settings during the COVID-19 pandemic
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>
- Guidance for special schools and other specialist settings: COVID-19
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>
- Summer schools programme guidance
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-schools-programme>
- Contingency framework: education and childcare settings
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings>

Scenario 1 – Single Confirmed COVID Case

If there is one case identified in school the following steps will be taken in line with the latest guidance:

- School will liaise with Public Health passing on the relevant information.
- School will follow the Local Authority reporting guidance.
- Those in close contact will be asked to isolate.
- Consideration will be given to transport and visitor contacts.
- Remote learning plan to be implemented for those isolating.
- School's Risk Assessment to be evaluated in light of any learning from new case.

From 01st September 2021

If there is one case identified in school the following extra step will be taken in line with the latest guidance:

- Those in close contact will be asked to isolate, if they have not been double vaccinated (adults). For children who have been a close contact and parents do not want to test their children using A PCR test, parents will be asked to keep vigilant for 10 days for symptoms of Covid-19.

From 28th November 2021

If one case of a VoC is identified in school the following extra step will be taken in line with the latest guidance:

- All those in close contact will be asked to isolate, regardless of age or having been fully vaccinated, for 10 days from the last time of contact.
- The remote learning plan to be implemented for those isolating.

From 14th December 2021

If one case of a VoC is identified in school the following extra step will be taken in line with the latest guidance:

- All those in close contact, who are double vaccinated, are under 18 years and 6 months old or 5 years old or older, will be asked to take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) for 7 days and report the results to the NHS and to school. If they are negative, they can continue to attend school. If they are positive, they will be advised to self-isolate and book a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they will be able to return to school, but will need to continue taking the LFTs until the 7 days are completed.
- All adults over 18 years and 6 months who are not fully vaccinated will be required to isolate for 10 days if they are a close contact of someone diagnosed with Covid.
- The remote learning plan to be implemented for those isolating.

Scenario 2 – Outbreak Within Setting

The definition of an outbreak in a non-residential setting is:

10% of the setting numbers or Five or more PCR test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 among individuals associated with a specific non-residential setting with illness onset dates within 14 days, and one of the following:

- Identified direct exposure between at least 2 of the test-confirmed cases in that setting (for example under one metre face to face, or spending more than 15 minutes within 2 metres) during the infectious period of one of the cases.
- When there is no sustained local community transmission - absence of an alternative source of infection outside the setting for the initially identified cases.

An outbreak is deemed to last 28 days from the last positive diagnosis.

The best way to avoid an outbreak the school is to ensure preventative measures are in place. Within the school the following will be in place:

- A risk assessment that reflects the current Government Guidance.
- Appropriate PPE will be provided and worn in line with Guidance.
- Hand sanitiser will be freely available.
- Staff who can work from home will do so.
- The School's COVID Response will be followed.
- LFT testing will be available for staff and visitors.

Should an outbreak be identified the following steps may be undertaken:

- School will liaise with Public Health passing on the relevant information.
- School will follow the Local Authority guidance for notification.
- In collaboration with Public Health and the School's Senior Leadership Team a decision will be made as to whether school can remain open.
- DfE will be informed if the school is to close.
- Local Authority will be informed if the school is to close.
- Remote learning plan will be implemented.
- External visits to the school will stop until deemed safe.
- School's Risk Assessment will be evaluated in light of any learning from new cases.

From 01st September 2021

Should an outbreak be identified the following extra steps will be undertaken:

- If the school does not close:
 - Bubbles may be reinstated for 4-6 weeks.
 - Staggered start and ends times to the day may be reinstated for 4-6 weeks.
 - Staggered break and lunchtimes may be reinstated for 4-6 weeks.
 - Face coverings for staff and visitors in communal areas may be reinstated for 4-6 weeks.
 - Whole school gatherings e.g. assemblies, Mass etc may cease for 4-6 weeks.

From 28th November 2021

School will follow some or all of the above steps and possibly:

- If the school does not close:
 - Cancel or rearrange any school trips or visits planned to take place in the next 4-6 weeks.

From 14th December 2021

School will follow some or all of the above steps and possibly:

- If the school does not close:
 - Restrict parental attendance into the setting and cancel any live performances in the setting.

Scenario 3 – The setting is affected by a package of Local or National measures

The COVID situation is ever changing as are the directed responses. School will ensure that it implements any Local or National restrictions and guidance. School will work in collaboration with professionals and stakeholders to limit the impact on educational delivery. This will include working with the following:

- Parents/carers
- Pupils
- Public Health

- Local Authority
- Social Care
- DfE

The following plans are in place to support the continued delivery of education under local or National measures:

Testing:

- School will ensure it remains well stocked with LFD tests in case there is a requirement to increase home testing for staff and visitors.
- Staff will continue to be encouraged to LFT twice weekly and report the results to the HT and the NHS Website.

Face Coverings:

- Should face coverings be recommended, school will amend it's Risk Assessment in line with the government guidance for staff and visitors.

Shielding:

- Should shielding be reintroduced, those on the shielded patient list will be supported to follow guidance. If this is a pupil, then the remote learning plan would be implemented. Shielding staff will be supported to work from home and measures put in place to support their wellbeing.

School's Risk Assessment:

- This is a regularly updated document which sets out the expectations of the School on visits, visitors, trips, training and home visits.

Attendance restrictions:

Places will be prioritised for pupils in line with current guidance:

- *"If some attendance restrictions are needed, all vulnerable children, children of critical workers, children in reception, year 1 and year 2 should still be allowed to attend. If, by exception, attendance is restricted further, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should still be allowed to attend."*
- Where pupils have EHCPs and cannot attend school a risk assessment will be undertaken to assess if they are safer at home or in school.

Safeguarding:

- It is expected that school will have a DSL on site, if this is not possible a senior leader will take on the responsibility for coordinating safeguarding and remote support in school and a DSL will give support remotely.
- Wellbeing calls will be made regularly (in line with individual pupil risk assessments) to ensure that pupils are safe and well at home.

Meals:

- Meals will continue to be provided for those on site, those in receipt of free school meals who are not on site will either be provided with vouchers or food parcels for the time the pupil is isolating, or the school is restricting attendance.

IT Access:

- As part of the school's remote learning plan, details will be held of who requires a device to be provided. These will be available to be collected from school or, if there is prior warning, they will be distributed prior to class/school closures.

- Part of the wellbeing calls will be to monitor this provision and pupil access to the remote learning so that support can be given as required.